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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 CAIRO 002183

SIPDIS

NSC FOR AGUIRRE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/19/2019
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [KDEM](#) [KJUS](#) [PTER](#) [EG](#)
SUBJECT: EGYPT: MB LEADERS RELEASED

REF: A. CAIRO 1467
[1B](#). CAIRO 1493

[1C](#). CAIRO 1893 D. CAIRO 2011 Classified By: Minister-Counselor for Economic and Political Affairs Donald A. Blome, for reasons 1.4 (b) and

1.(C) Key Points: -- On November 17, the GoE released on bail Muslim Brotherhood (MB) Guidance Bureau Dr. Abdel Moneim Fotouh along with 13 oth

2.(C) Comment: Two competing theories have been offered for Fotouh's sudden release. The first is growing public sympathy for the ailing Fotouh

3.(C) On November 17, Muslim Brotherhood's (MB) Guidance Bureau member Dr. Abdel Moneim Fotouh was released from detention along with thirteen

4.(C) The release also comes the month before internal MB elections of a new Supreme Guide. Akef has been adamant that he will step down as prc

5.(C) Fotouh and others had been held on consecutive 15-day orders of detention "pending investigation" (Reftel A) for belonging to an illegal

[16](#). (C) Fotouh suffered from chronic health problems and was held at Kasr El Aini hospital during most of his detention. CAIRO 00002183 002 OF

7.(C) Fellow MB Guidance Bureau member Osama Nasr (arrested May 14), also released on November 17, had also been ordered released by the court